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## **Foundation created by merger of groups sees promising start**

**Mercury News Editorial**

The merger of two community foundations went on, as expected, this week with the unanimous approval of the Peninsula Community Foundation and the Community Foundation Silicon Valley boards of directors. There was one pleasant surprise, the announcement of a three-year, \$3 million donation to the new Silicon Valley Community Foundation's endowment.

Raising more money through unrestricted gifts, especially in Santa Clara County, is one goal of the merger. The gift by an anonymous donor will seed the effort.

The new foundation's board will decide how that money will be spent. But, in a broad sense, the public can have a say. The foundation is encouraging people to fill out an online survey (''The Latest'' at [www.cfsv.org](http://www.cfsv.org)) and inviting the public to two meetings to comment on the merger and suggest priorities for the new \$1.5 billion foundation. The dates are Aug. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Redwood City and Aug. 28, 5-7 p.m., in San Jose (see [www.cfsv.org/mergerevent.html](http://www.cfsv.org/mergerevent.html)).

Silicon Valley Community Foundation's new CEO may be at the events. Wasting no time, the new board may make a job offer by month's end.

We are disappointed that the new headquarters will be in Palo Alto and not in San Jose, closer to where many of the non-profits and recipients of grants are located. Nonetheless, the outreach at next month's open meetings marks a promising start for the new foundation.